



Pathfinder

"Life's most urgent question is: What are you doing for others?"
Dr. Martin Luther King

Teamwork Matters

A message from
the City Manager



JASON STILWELL

On Saturday, August 25th, I encourage you to join me and some of your fellow City employees, for a few hours of beautifying our community through Serve Santa Maria 16. We will be joined by hundreds of volunteers. Also this month, I encourage you to participate in an employee engagement survey.

Since inception in 2010, Serve Santa Maria has helped build community spirit, through beautification projects that foster pride across neighborhoods. Each year, the City partners with Serve Santa Maria, spearheaded by Pastor Carl Nielsen of Bethel Lutheran Church and the other members of the Serve Santa Maria leadership team, to improve the community in a variety of ways. City staff identify suitable projects, and with the help of volunteers, fan out across our community.

On August 25th, volunteers will gather at the City's Abel Maldonado Community Youth Center to be registered from 8:30 to 9:00 a.m., then after a short opening, be on their way to work sites by 9:15 a.m. Crews will plant, sweep, mulch, paint, and clean-up private residences, as well as enhancing churches, local schools, and City parks.

This year, there are projects at four City properties: (1) Preisker Park (planting 20 trees, spreading bark chips, some planting near the Fire Station); (2) City Attorney's Office at the corner of South McClelland Street and East Cook Street, removing old or dead plants and replacing with new plants; (3) Civic Center, 110 East Cook Street, replacing plants and

wiping down rails, light fixtures and windowsills; (4) Rice Park, 700 East Sunset, touching up the planted area. Also, one or two projects in the riverbed.

There also will be projects at two churches: if you like to paint, come to Pan de Vida (Bread of Life) Church at 2548 South Broadway, where the building's exterior needs a lot of paint. At Bethel Lutheran Church, 625 East Camino Colegio, volunteers will pick up tree limbs from a large oak tree that was trimmed.

There are other projects, too. What would be truly helpful is to choose the project you want to do, and then sign up ahead of the event. It is first come, first served on the selection. You may contact Pastor Carl Nielsen via e-mail at carlnielsennews@bethelsantamaria.org or Mark van de Kamp at extension 2372.

Good advice is to bring shovels, metal rakes, brooms, wheelbarrows (if you have one) and tough gloves, and if it's sunny wear a hat and sunblock.

Be on the lookout for an employment engagement survey coming your way in the next few weeks. The City's Human Resources Division is partnering with CPS HR Consulting to build a survey to solicit your feedback to help understand where we are doing well and where we have room to make improvements. The survey will take no more than 10 minutes and will be confidential. We really hope you will participate and provide your honest opinions. More information will be coming soon.

In closing, the City Council on July 3rd voted to place Measure U on the November ballot. For details, see www.cityofsantamaria.org/measureu.

Jason